Visit of China by Minister of Commerce

563. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Commerce visited China for five days on 31st May, 1993; and

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and agreements reached with China during the visit for augmentation of bilateral trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were wide ranging discussions for increasing bilateral trade between India and China. Co-operation in Iron Ore Mining, Railways sector, Communication, Aviation, Water conservancy, Construction, Iron and Steel Processing were discussed. There were also wide ranging discussions with the State Planning Commission of China in Beijing and both sides agreed to have a standing arrangement for exchange of delegations and views in the future.

Agreement with Israel on promotion of Trade and Commerce

564. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently signed a memoranda of understanding with Israel to promote bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, what are the areas of economic cooperation between the two countries stating the shares in the expansion of trade ties envisaged in MOU;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the two countries for signing an agreement bestowing the status of most favoured nation on each other to promote trade and commerce; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the agreement is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas of Economic Cooperation identified in the MOU are industry, agriculture, solar energy, research and development, natural resources, tourism, transport, telecommunications, science & technology, etc. No targets for bilateral trade have been laid down in the MOU.

(c) and (d) India has proposed an Agreement with Israel on Trade and Economic Cooperation, a draft of which has been given to the Government of Israel for consideration. The proposed Agreement includes the "Most Favoured Nation" clause on the lines of similar provisions in our bilateral trade Agreements with other countries. The proposal is at present under the consideration of the Government of Israel. It is not possible at this stage to indicate any definite time frame for finalisation and signing of the proposed Agreement.

Comparable performance of Export and Import

565. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA
SHRI SOM PAL
SRIMATI MIRA DAS
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the comparable performance of exports and imports during the current year in comparison with the last year;

(b) what is the projected perspective for the current year's external trade turnover;

(c) whether it is a fact that a section of exporters are indulging in over invoicing to bring back the foreign exchange that is deposited clandestinely in foreign banks; and

(d) if so, what are the preventive measures taken to counter this device which encourages clandestine havala market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The data on exports and imports for April-May, 1993, the latest period for which such information is available and

those for April-May, 1992 are given below:

	April-May		US $ Million % growth
	1992-93	1993-94	
Exports	2666.83	3458.58	29.69
Imports	3611.57	3465.17	−4.05

(b) The Government have set an export target at US $ 22138 million for 1993-94. No targets are set for imports.

(c) According to the Department of Revenue a few cases of suspected over-invoicing of exports have come to the notice of the Customs authorities.

(d) Assessing Officers check the value of the goods at the time of export. Moreover Special Investigation and Intelligence Units at local Customs House level and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Directorate of Enforcement at All India level keep a watch on attempts of manipulation of value of goods.

Army recruiting centre at Rayalaseema in A.P.

566. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Army Recruiting Centre functioning in Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up Army Recruiting Centre in Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to open any Recruiting Office in the Rayalaseema area.

(d) Does not arise.

Pak defence expenditure

567. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what is Pakistan's defence expenditure vis-a-vis the percentage of GDP of that country in 1991, 1992 and 1993 (as per the provisions) and the comparable figures with respect to India, China, Bangladesh and other countries in the subcontinent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The Defence Expenditure of Pakistan during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 has been of the order of 7% to 8% of the GDP of that country. The comparable figures in respect of the other countries in the sub-continent during the same period are as follows:—

	Defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP
India	2.50
China	3.20
Bangladesh	1.30
Nepal	1.23
Myanmar	4.20
Sri Lanka	4.85

Crash of Swati aircraft

568. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the first light aircraft 'Swati' manufactured by HAL crashed near Hardwar on June 3, 1993; and

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has since been conducted and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) One of the aircrafts named Swati crashed near Hardwar on June 3rd, 1993. This was manufactured by BHEL based on a design by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(b) An enquiry is under progress by DGCA.